

from continuing to furnish the use of its lines, equipment or service under any contract or contracts in force at the date when this act takes effect, or upon the taking effect of any schedule or schedules of rates subsequently filed with the commission, as hereinafter provided, at the rate or rates fixed in such contract or contracts: *provided, however*, that when any such contract or contracts are or become terminable by notice, the commission shall have power in its discretion to direct by order that such contract or contracts shall be terminated by the telegraph or telephone corporation party thereto, and thereupon such contract or contracts shall be terminated by such telegraph or telephone corporation as and when directed by such order.

SECTION 21. Whenever the commission receives notice of any change or changes proposed to be made in any schedule filed under the provisions of this act, it shall have power, either upon complaint or upon its own motion, and after notice, to hold a public hearing and make investigation as to the propriety of such proposed change or changes. Pending any such investigation and the decision thereon, the commission shall have power, by any order served upon the common carrier affected, to suspend the taking effect of such change or changes, but not for a longer period than six months beyond the time when such change or changes would otherwise take effect. After such hearing and investigation, the commission may make such order in reference to any new rate, joint rate, fare, telephone rental, toll, classification, charge, rule, regulation or form of contract or agreement proposed, as would be proper in a proceeding initiated after the same has taken effect. At any such hearing involving any proposed increase in any rate, joint rate, fare, telephone rental, toll or charge, the burden of proof to show that such increase is necessary in order to obtain a reasonable compensation for the service rendered shall be upon the common carrier. If at a hearing involving any proposed decrease in any rate, joint rate, fare, telephone rental, toll or charge demanded by any common carrier, it shall appear to the

commission that the said rate, joint rate, fare, telephone rental, toll or charge is insufficient to yield reasonable compensation for the service rendered, the commission shall have power to determine what will be the just and reasonable rate or rates, fare or fares, telephone rental or rentals, toll or tolls, charge or charges, to be thereafter observed in such case as the minimum to be charged, and to make an order that the common carrier complained of shall not thereafter demand, charge or collect any rate, fare, telephone rental, toll, or charge lower than the minimum so prescribed without first obtaining the consent of the commission, not to be given without a public hearing.

SECTION 22. Whenever the commission shall be of opinion, after a hearing had upon its own motion or upon complaint, that the rates, fares or charges or any of them demanded, exacted, charged or collected by any common carrier now or hereafter subject to its jurisdiction, for any services to be performed within the commonwealth, or the regulations or practices of such common carrier affecting such rates, are unjust, unreasonable, unjustly discriminatory or unduly preferential or in any wise in violation of any provision of law, or that the rates, fares or charges or any of them chargeable by any such common carrier are insufficient to yield reasonable compensation for the service rendered and are unjust and unreasonable, the commission shall determine the just and reasonable rates, fares and charges to be charged for the service to be performed, and shall fix the same by order to be served upon every common carrier by whom such rates, fares and charges or any of them are thereafter to be observed. It shall be the duty of every such common carrier to observe and obey every requirement of every such order so served upon it, and to do everything necessary or proper in order to secure absolute compliance with and observance of every such order by all its officers, agents and employees. The commission may, after investigation, authorize a common carrier in special cases to charge less for longer than for shorter distances for the transportation of passengers or property, whenever in the opinion of the com-

mission such authorization is consistent with the public interests, and the commission may from time to time modify or revoke such authorization.

SECTION 27. The supreme judicial court shall have jurisdiction in equity to review, annul, modify or amend any rulings or orders of the commission which are unlawful to the extent only of such unlawfulness. The procedure before the said court shall be that prescribed by its rules, which shall state upon what terms the enforcement of the order shall be stayed. The attorney for any party petitioning the supreme judicial court hereunder shall file with the clerk of the court a certificate that he is of opinion that there is such probable ground for the appeal as to make it a fit subject for judicial inquiry, and that it is not intended for delay; and double costs shall be assessed by the court upon any such party whose petition shall appear to the court not to be a fit subject for judicial inquiry or shall appear to be intended for delay. The burden of proof shall be upon the party adverse to the commission to show that its order is invalid. Any proceeding in any court of this commonwealth directly affecting an order of the commission or to which the commission is a party shall have preference over all other civil proceedings pending in such court, except election cases.

SECTION 28. The supreme judicial court shall have jurisdiction upon the application of the commission to enforce all valid orders of the commission and all the provisions of this act. Whenever the commission shall be of opinion that a common carrier subject to its supervision is failing or omitting or about to fail or omit to do anything required of it by law or by order of the commission, or is doing anything or about to do anything or permitting anything or about to permit anything to be done, contrary to or in violation of the law or of any order of the commission, it shall direct counsel to the commission to begin, subject to the supervision of the attorney-

general, an action or proceeding in the supreme judicial court in the name of the commission for the purpose of having such violations or threatened violations stopped and prevented either by mandamus or injunctions.

JOINT RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS OF JULY 16, 1918.

TO AUTHORIZE THE PRESIDENT, IN TIME OF WAR, TO SUPERVISE OR TAKE POSSESSION AND ASSUME CONTROL OF ANY TELEGRAPH, TELEPHONE, MARINE CABLE, OR RADIO SYSTEM OR SYSTEMS OR ANY PART THEREOF AND TO OPERATE THE SAME IN SUCH MANNER AS MAY BE NEEDFUL OR DESIRABLE FOR THE DURATION OF THE WAR, AND TO PROVIDE JUST COMPENSATION THEREFOR.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled, That the President during the continuance of the present war is authorized and empowered, whenever he shall deem it necessary for the national security or defense, to supervise or to take possession and assume control of any telegraph, telephone, marine cable, or radio system or systems, or any part thereof, and to operate the same in such manner as may be needful or desirable for the duration of the war, which supervision, possession, control, or operation shall not extend beyond the date of the proclamation by the President of the exchange of ratifications of the treaty of peace: provided, That just compensation shall be made for such supervision, possession, control, or operation, to be determined by the President; and if the amount thereof, so determined by the President, is unsatisfactory to the person entitled to receive the same, such person shall be paid seventy-five per centum of the amount so determined by the President and shall be entitled to sue the United States to recover such further sum as, added to said seventy-five per centum, will make up such amount as will be just compensation therefor, in the manner provided for by section twenty-four, paragraph

twenty, and section one hundred and forty-five of the Judicial Code: *provided, further, That nothing in this Act shall be construed to amend, repeal, impair, or affect existing laws or powers of the States in relation to taxation or the lawful police regulations of the several States*, except wherein such laws, powers, or regulations may affect the transmission of Government communications, or the issue of stocks and bonds by such system or systems.